

**The physician himself and what he should add to the strictly scientific.** By D. W. CATHELL, M.D., Baltimore : Cushings & Bailey, 1882.

The author of this work enters upon a comparatively little trodden field of medical literature, as interesting as it is novel. He deals with the "*personal questions in medical practice.*"

He takes the younger members of the profession by the hand in a most cordial and paternal manner, and tells them some home-truths that are seldom uttered outside the circle of private friendships. To do this as Dr. Cathell has done it requires moral courage, ability, and, most of all, experience. In none of these qualities does our author appear to be wanting. With a clean sense of honor, he combines that worldly shrewdness that seems to be lacking in the mental composition of a number of his fellow physicians.

We are counselled as to behavior before the public, to our patients, and to one another. Dress, habits, demeanor, associates, relations to druggists, to homœopathists, and to various religious sects, collection of fees, and keeping of accounts, newspapers, medical ethics, purity of mind, and even variations in the size of teaspoons, form but a small portion in the enumeration of the subjects treated of.

Probably in all this the book is but a reflection of the man, and we have no doubt that our author practises what he preaches. Our present opportunities for ascertaining this are limited, but it is amusing to note that in the only single instance offered to his readers of judging, his practice is widely at variance with his precepts. Thus on page 55 the doctor writes : "When you publish any thing do not follow the custom of suffixing to your name a long tail, consisting of all the titles and names that you can rake together, with half a dozen etc.'s ; such an enumeration is in bad taste and excites the ridicule of discerning people. The idea governing the use of suffixes is chiefly that the individual who writes may be identified,—a single suffix, or simple title, or your own town, street, and number, is more modest and equally as useful."

Turning to his title-page we read : "By D. W. Cathell, M.D., late Professor of Pathology to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore ; ex-President of the Medical and Surgical Society ; Active Member of Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland ; Honorary Member of the Lincoln Philosophical Society, etc., etc."

How many more titles our author could have "raked together" we know not, but a "simple title is more modest," he thinks. Well, perhaps so. Certainly we agree with him that half a dozen etc.'s are too many, and we suggest also that the two he employs are redundant, since one alone is a plural. But our good doctor nowhere preaches consistency; he is rather an opportunist—a clever man who trims his sail to the breeze, said breeze being the public and his patients, and since, in his present work, he writes for medical men, we may for once let the "censors smile," and excuse the doctor if he does not practise what he preaches.

If there is any one thing prominent in the book it is the "hard-sense" of the writer—or perhaps we should say that kind of "hard-sense" that is nearest akin to a truly agreeable, enlightened selfishness. Our writer preaches philanthropy but not abasement; in helping others he would have us retain our own strength, not waste it; he throws no pearls before swine. On the other hand, he neglects no honest person's interests. His main aim is to inculcate *professional tact and business sagacity*. Will any one say that there is not a great want of these qualities in the medical profession? We think not.

No one will read this book without feeling that many of his own crude experiences have been deftly worked out into a recognizable plan of personal ethics. Each will recognize therein reasons for his failures, reasons for his successes. The old practitioner, according to which of the two has fallen to his lot, may felicitate himself or repent; the young one may take heed and "form" himself. And in either event Dr. Cathell may feel assured that he has done his fellow physicians good service.

**L' hérédité psychologique.**—Par TH. RIBOT, Directeur de la Revue Philosophique; deuxième édition, entièrement refondue. Paris: Germer Baillière, pp. 417.

The first edition of this work, with its many *depassées* ideas and old title, will be laid upon the shelf, now that M. Ribot has given us this delightful new work, for, such it really is, with its changed name, tone, and arrangement. Old parts have been taken from and new parts added to it, unimportant details dropped, noticeable lacunæ satisfactorily filled in with the results of investigation and observation by Darwin, Herbert Spencer, Galton, Lucas, and others. M. Ribot shows by his title his particular aim; for although he enters rather fully into the details of